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undermined, and a period of liquidation begins. Business is reduced in volume, prices fall, prices and costs are readjusted and depression prepares the way for another period of prosperity.

Undoubtedly one of the valuable features of this book is the wealth of statistical materials upon which the author's analysis rests. As he himself states (p. 570): "The case for the present theory . . . and also the case against it, is to be found, not in the summary . . . but in the difficult chapters which precede (viz. the statistical data)." The data here presented furnish excellent material for class purposes or for independent investigators in studying the fluctuations of economic activity, and for testing quantitatively this or other theories.

BRUCE D. MUDGETT.

University of Pennsylvania.

MÜNSTERBERG, HUGO. *Psychology and Social Sanity*. Pp. ix, 320. Price, \$1.25. New York: Doubleday, Page and Company, 1914.

This collection of essays is the latest product, save of course for *The War and America*, of the tireless pen of the distinguished German American professor at Harvard. It seems to him, as the preface states, "a particular duty of the psychologist from time to time to leave his laboratory and with his little contribution to serve the outside interests of the community." Some "characteristic topics of social discussion" are selected, to be "solved" by psychology; the succeeding chapter headings are: Sex Education, Socialism, The Intellectual Underworld, Thought Transference, The Mind of the Juryman, Efficiency on the Farm, Social Sins of Advertising, The Mind of the Investor, Society and the Dance, and Naïve Psychology.

With regard to the sex problem, the author, perversely enough, advocates earnestly in the preface "the policy of silence," and forthwith proceeds to violate that policy harshly in some sixty-eight pages. Discussion of the questions of sex, taken up by the drama, treated in magazine literature, or involved in the education of boys and girls, he feels is fraught with the gravest danger. More thorough knowledge of sex will mean simply increased desire and calculated sinning. Certainly it is just to say that such an obscurantist plea for the efficacy of total depravity doctrine and such a defense of mystical belief and ignorance, is not far short of sheer indiscriminate reaction in this time of knowledge and discussion. Moreover, the essay seems to reflect a wilful refusal to consider objective facts impartially; this alone would negative any claim for its consideration as a contribution to social science.

Nor does the long chapter on Socialism deserve comment except as reflecting upon the author's limitations as a sociologist. Here Professor Münsterberg, the platitudinous, dispenses ancient commonplaces about incentives and ideals and happiness. Such writing can scarcely be very effective in combating the claims of Socialism. He seems not at all to understand the vital social and economic issues presented. Indeed, it is rather futile to attempt to apply the ideas of individualistic psychology to group relations, where the broader critical analysis of social psychology is needed. Again, to take another instance, *The Mind of the Juryman* is of interest as revealing the possible scientific catastrophe which may follow upon this utilization of the laboratory method of introspective psychology to

settle social questions. In a little Harvard experiment to determine the efficacy of the jury system, which involved a process of discussion and persuasion with regard to the number of dots on pieces of cardboard,—with male students, 52 per cent of the first votes were ascertained to be correct, and 78 per cent of the final votes. But, alas, with the poor female students only 45 per cent of the first votes were right, and the proportion of correct votes remained unchanged to the last. Upon this slender thread of evidence the following remarkable and naïvely impartial social conclusion is reached at the end of the essay: "The psychologist has every reason to be satisfied with the jury system as long as the women are kept out of it." The impulse to quote along with this statement these delightful words from the preface is irresistible: "If some may blame me for overlooking the problem of suffrage, I can at least refer to the chapter on the jury, which comes quite near to this militant question."

In *Efficiency on the Farm* the author makes out a case for the much-abused farmer, and shows the need of applying tests of scientific efficiency to farmers and agricultural life, similar to those now used with workingmen in industry. *Social Sins of Advertising* points out convincingly, with clever and justifiable use of laboratory experiment, the psychological mistake that commercialism has made in mixing advertising material with the written word in our magazines. *The Mind of the Investor*, while not a startlingly original contribution, is a worthwhile study of certain mass phenomena. *Society and the Dance* is one of the best of the essays. The author shows a very considerable knowledge of the dance, and as well a discriminating appreciation of its social influence and aesthetic possibilities.

In the remaining chapters, *Thought Transference*, *The Intellectual Underworld*, and *Naïve Psychology*, Professor Münsterberg is quite at home in his chosen and reputed field of popularizing the fascinating material of abnormal psychology and of shattering popular misunderstandings and superstitions. Like all of the professor's many books, this volume holds the reader's interest by the very nature of its appeal; it will be widely read. The ingenious experiments of the professor and his deductions are most attractive; but it would be a mistake, of course, to take too seriously the rather extravagant claim of the preface with regard to the solution of complex social problems.

FRANCIS TYSON.

University of Pittsburgh.

PHILLIPS, WALTER ALISON. *The Confederation of Europe*. Pp. xv, 315. Price, \$2.50. New York: Longmans, Green and Company, 1914.

The confederation of Europe is of particular interest at a time when the world is beginning to ask itself what guarantees of peace are possible after the outcome of the present struggle. One or other of the great alliances of European powers will find itself in a position somewhat analogous to that of the allies after the downfall of Napoleon. Mr. Phillips' book traces in some detail the efforts made at that time to erect the alliance into some sort of permanent European confederation. He points out that all such efforts failed because there were such widely different and sharply conflicting systems of government represented within the several states that composed the union, and he adopts the attitude that even today the